ATTACHMENT C

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) Moulding sand supply apparatus ~~(1)~~ comprising

a sand reservoir ~~(2)~~ for delivering sand ~~(3)~~ to a mainly horizontal belt conveyor ~~(4)~~, said belt conveyor ~~(4)~~ being controlled to deliver an appropriate amount of sand for filling a flask, ~~(5)~~ said flask being positioned to receive sand falling from the belt conveyor, ~~characterized by further comprising~~ and

means for controlling the belt conveyor speed according to a speed profile, said speed profile providing varying trajectories for the delivered sand relative to the speed of the belt conveyor, resulting in a controlled varied distribution, in the transport direction of the belt conveyor, ~~(4)~~ of the sand ~~(3) in~~ filling the flask ~~(5)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising guide plates ~~(7)~~ to influence the distribution of the sand ~~(3)~~ in a direction perpendicular to the transport direction of the belt conveyor ~~(4)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising guiding plates ~~(7)~~ to influence the distribution of the sand ~~(3)~~ in the transport direction of the belt conveyor ~~(4)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising a funnel ~~(8)~~ positioned to guide the falling sand between the belt conveyor ~~(4)~~ and the flask ~~(5)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising a weighing unit ~~(9)~~ detecting the weight of the sand delivered to the flask ~~(5)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 4, ~~characterized by~~ wherein said weighing unit ~~(9) being~~ is ~~provided in the form of~~ a sensor activated by the deflection of a structure supporting the flask ~~(10)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) Method for supplying moulding sand ~~(3)~~ from a sand reservoir ~~(2)~~ via a belt conveyor ~~(4)~~ to a flask ~~(5)~~ comprising the steps of

- controlling the belt conveyor ~~(4)~~ to supply an appropriate amount of sand ~~(3)~~ for filling a flask ~~(5)~~, and

~~characterized by comprising the further steps of:~~

- controlling the belt conveyor speed according to a varying speed profile providing varying trajectories relative to the speed of the belt conveyor for the sand leaving the end of the belt conveyor ~~(4)~~, said varying trajectories resulting in a controlled varied distribution, in the transport direction of the belt conveyor, ~~(4)~~ of the sand ~~(3) in~~ filling the flask ~~(5)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with claim 7, ~~characterized by~~ comprising the further step of providing guide plates ~~(7)~~ to influence the distribution of the sand in a direction perpendicular to the transport direction of the belt conveyor ~~(4)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with claim 7, ~~characterized by~~ comprising the further step of providing a funnel ~~(8)~~ to guide the falling ~~(3)~~ between the belt conveyor ~~(4)~~ and the flask ~~(5)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with claim 7, ~~characterized by~~ comprising the further step of using the weight of the sand ~~(3)~~ delivered to the flask ~~(5)~~ as an input to the controller controlling the belt conveyor speed.